8. Grievances of the people on account of the enforcement of the Land Conservancy Regulation and the Puduval Rules.

Mr. K. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) said that the existence of *porambokes* was due to the incorrect survey made by the surveyors and that was admitted on all hands. That being so, it was unjust and hard to treat the excesses over registered holdings in the possession of private persons for a very long time as *porambokes* and impose on them fine and prohibitory assessment in the *poramboke* case first and then make a further recovery in the shape of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, etc., in *puduval* cases in respect of the same land. The *tharavila* fixed in such cases was prohibitive, being the market value of the neighbouring lands. That should not be so. In such cases, the excesses over *pathivu* and the trees on them should be registered free of *tharavila*, as was being done in other taluks, or the minimum *tharavila* alone should be levied. No *poramboke* cases should be started for occupations measuring less than a cent.

The Member then spoke about the treatment of *sarpakkavus*, temples, etc. He said that those were recorded as *porambokes* at the last settlement and *tharavila* and other dues were realised in respect of the same. Such places, the Member said, should be granted to the owners free of *tharavila*. The same procedure should be adopted also in respect of the tanks and temples attached to *kavus*. The Member concluded by saying that the main cause of the present troubles was the creation of Assistant Tahsildars and he prayed that those offices might be abolished.

President's reply.—The important points dealt with by the three Members who have just spoken are:—

(1) that many *poramboke* cases have been started at Mavelikara;

(2) that the work of the Land Records Maintenance Department is not satisfactory and that it should be stopped;

(3) that the Land Conservancy Regulation and the Rules thereunder are not properly worked by the officers, and that, in consequence, *poramboke* cases are increasing; and

(4) that tanks, snake-groves and other places of worship should be registered in the names of the owners without *tharavila* and *thadivila*.

I have already said in reply to a previous representation that, if encroachments are detected, action has to be taken under the rules, and that the remedy of the aggrieved party who is injuriously affected by the irregularities of the officers concerned is to appeal against the decisions which they consider to be wrong. There are rules for the guidance of the officers concerned with land records maintenance work, and stringent instructions have been issued to them for the proper working of the rules. If any mistakes are committed by the officers, it will be practically difficult for the Government to take action unless those mistakes are brought to their notice. All the other points mentioned by the Member will be duly considered.

9. Difficulties in the working of the Puduval Rules.

Mr. P. Rajagopala Reddiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Alleppey) spoke about the difficulties in the working of the Puduval Rules. He said that the rates of *tharavila* and assessment fixed for town lands were inordinately high and that the people were put to much hardship on that account. For example, if a person, who had occupied a piece of land *bona fide*—say 10 cents in extent—and effected improvements thereon, applied for its registry after knowing that it was a piece of *puduval* land, the authorities could impose an assessment of Rs. 571⅔ per cent. *i. e.* at the maximum rate, *viz.*, Rs. 5 and Chs. 20 per cent, besides imposing a high rate of *tharavila*. To remove this hardship, the Member suggested that the Municipal Councils within whose jurisdiction the town lands were situated should be consulted in the matter of fixing suitable rates of *tharavila* and assessment, in the same way as they were consulted as regards the assignability of lands within their jurisdiction. He also suggested that a Committee of non-official gentlemen might be appointed to propose suitable amendments to the existing Puduval Rules.

President's reply.—Your request is to modify the existing Puduval Rules. The suggestions contained in your representation will be considered by the Government.

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